

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

84- 5066

30 July 1984

*Memo
Chrono*

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
The Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

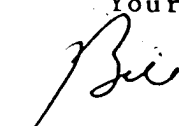
Dear Cap,

I want to advise you that I have chosen an outstanding Air Force officer, Colonel George Kolt, to be the new National Intelligence Officer for Europe. The NIO position carries enormous responsibilities for coordinating and galvanizing the entire Intelligence Community in a given area. He also serves as my principal substantive advisor and stand-in at interagency meetings. In the past, military officers who have served as NIOs have been of two star rank and include such luminaries as Paul Gorman.

Colonel Kolt is the first Air Force officer in over ten years to be chosen as National Intelligence Officer. He came to us from a position on the faculty of the National Defense University teaching Soviet strategy and before that had served as a military representative to the MBFR talks, assistant attache in Moscow (where he worked with and earned the great respect of Bill Odom), as well as other tours in Western Europe. When we were looking for a new Assistant NIO for the Soviet Union two years ago, Generals Odom and Tighe recommended him to me as the best expert in uniform on the Soviet Union. Our experience with him over the last two years has borne this out. George was the Acting NIO for the Soviet Union for almost a year and during that time I found his advice and insight extraordinary and his ability to pull the Community together in unprecedented ways a major achievement. Under his guiding hand, the Community has done more pointed and useful work together on the USSR and its political intentions in the last year or two than in the preceding ten.

I have spoken to Charlie Gabriel about this new appointment, among other things to encourage him to give George serious consideration for promotion to Brigadier General this fall. Because these officers serve an important role for DoD as well as other elements of the Intelligence Community, I thought this matter of Kolt's promotion was sufficiently important to mention to you personally. An officer of Kolt's talent is so rare that I would like you to know about him.

Yours,



William J. Casey

Orig - Addressee

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